

Martin Luther King Commission Meeting
Rio Grande Board Room
January 7th, 2015

Attendees: Beth Garstka, Shawn Newell, Robert Rendon, Dr. Karen Johnson, Jasen Lee, Nkoyo Iyamba, Ed Napia, Adrienne Andrews, Dr. Forrest Crawford, Julie Fisher, Brian Somers, Geoffrey Fattah, Claudia Nakano, Jenny Hor, Stanford Kekauoha, Sattia Chozo

Excused: Joseph Nicholas, Winston Wilkinson, Dr. Rob Harter

Unexcused:

Welcome- *Claudia Nakano*

- Claudia Nakano welcomed the attendees to the MLK Commission meeting. She provided regrets from Winston Wilkinson who is out of town and unable to attend.
- The minutes were moved to be approved by Robert Rendon and seconded by Jasen Lee.

Introduction of New Members- *Commission Members*

- The Commission members introduced themselves.

KSL Cultural Connections – *Nkoyo Iyamba*

- Nkoyo asked for a copy of the MLK Commission Executive Order. She's excited to tape the KSL interview with Ed Napia, Dr. Rob Harter, Adrienne Andrews and Dr. Karen Johnson. She will be the one summarizing the executive order and talking points will be made available for the Commission before the interview; she'll focus on how the Commission has a diverse group of people, disciplines, skills, and jobs. Geoffrey Fattah will be there as the PIO of the department. The taping will be on Thursday, January 8th at 1pm and will take approximately 45 minutes.

Duties and Responsibilities– *Geoffrey Fattah*

- Geoff went over the duties and responsibilities as commissioners appointed by the Governor. He mentioned reviewing the Executive Order in order to pursue the goals of Martin Luther King's vision for justice, equality and peace. It's a responsibility commissioners are encouraged to promote through the year. The MLK Commission's purpose is to remind people throughout the year that Martin Luther King Day is a day on, not a day off. He stated that as a MLK commissioner they will not make policies or changes to existing policies. When addressing specific topics, for example Ferguson or other controversial topics, be careful when you speak as a commissioner because you are speaking as an appointee of the Governor and the public might construe your opinion as the Governor's opinion. When in doubt please feel free to reach out to Geoff for clarification. If you've been contacted by the media you can definitely speak as a citizen. He encouraged the commissioners to be clear if they are speaking as a citizen or a MLK Commissioner.
- Jasen Lee mentioned to keep in mind that whenever you're speaking as a commissioner you're also speaking on behalf of the entire Commission.

Strategic Plan- *Commission Discussion*

- Claudia mentioned that Winston wanted the Commission to continue the discussion that took place last meeting in terms of strategic planning.

- Jasen referred back to the last meeting minutes to point out trying to support other events and being visible in the community. The Commission should look for these opportunities otherwise people would never know what the Commission does. The Commission should take the opportunity to be present, visible and supportive of different organizations this will go a long way for building the MLK Commission's name.
- Claudia mentioned a couple of members from the Commission are speaking during the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Dr. Johnson is part of the MLK planning committee at the University of Utah. She explained to the Commission that when she receives an invitation she will forward the information to members to schedule opportunities to represent the MLK Commission in the community.
- Dr. Crawford mentioned co-sponsoring, showing support, and participating in other organizations' events will benefit the Commission; he stated that the best the Commission can do is to co-sponsor an event and the least would be to try and support already existing initiatives throughout the State. What that does is to help establish a track record for the Commission in terms of active support of other initiatives.
- Beth Garstka asked if someone approaches her knowing she's a member of the MLK Commission and ask for support to present/participate/co-sponsor an event; what is the process of accepting? How would the Commission determine if a particular event is more important than other events? Dr. Crawford stated that, the Commission has to consider what events are taking place during that time, what events are mindful of the Commission hosting or supporting, which members would be available to either support that particular event and assign individuals to attend those programs or meet with the organizations and ask if the Commission can be a co-sponsor. The second approach could be the MLK Commission reaching out to those individuals/organizations; and the third approach would be to put together a press release that says the MLK Commission is going to support specific events commemorating the MLK celebration.
- Dr. Johnson asked if funding was available; for example, if the University of Utah were to raise money for their MLK event would the Commission be able to co-sponsor? Claudia explained the Commission does not have a budget for funding. In the past members have conducted fundraising for events and activities.
- Adrienne Andrews stated the MLK Commission's participation has to be active and engaged. When acting on behalf of the Commission, the community is connecting them to the Governor. With this role, the Commission is providing a level of visibility that otherwise the event might not be getting, which is worth a lot of financial resources. Jasen mentioned that it doesn't have to be all MLK events but it can also be other events or programs that the community or organizations are putting together such as the Multicultural Youth Leadership Summit.
- Geoff explained the department will be creating a logo for the Commission. He reminded commissioners to take pictures in order to promote events they attend. These will be uploaded to the MLK Facebook page. This will show the community that the Commission is supporting and participating in events.
- Jasen suggested the Commission have a monthly release with the events the MLK Commission supports. He mentioned there are events that can give the Commission more exposure.
- Shawn asked what restrictions the Commission has in accepting funds or donations from outside organizations. For instance his company (Industrial Supplies) purchased a table the NAACP banquet and would like to invite 3-4 commissioners.

- Claudia explained there are no restrictions for accepting contributions or invitations to events. She also mentioned MCA is very active on social media and the office will be more than happy to help promote Facebook posts or tweets to MCA's followers.
- Dr. Crawford encouraged Commission members to submit their events to schozo@utah.gov. Satty will put a list of events together and send it out to the members.
- Shawn extended the invitation to the NAACP Luncheon. He has 5 open seats for Monday, January 19th at Little America Hotel (11:30 am). Beth will be attending.
- Claudia mentioned this year is the 25th anniversary of the MLK Commission; this could be celebrated anytime during 2015.
- Dr. Johnson suggested doing something every 2-3 months such as screening the film Selma for the community or hosting a panel. She mentioned doing something to recognize not only this Commission but also the community as well as other organizations.
- Dr. Crawford mentioned there are a good amount of events the Commission can be present at that will make a big impact on the community and provide supportive roles. The celebration could take place sometime during the spring or by next fall.
- Adrienne mentioned Weber State University is bringing in Mandla Mandela, Nelson Mandela's grandson, to keynote on February 10th. She also stated PBS and CW are airing an educational piece on Black History in the State this month.
- Dr. Crawford mentioned in the past the Commission collaborated with the Mayor's office and it will be a good idea to support or partner up with other government offices and to have a presence in their events. He suggested having the MCC and MLK Commissions co-sponsor an event. A reception inviting all Utah non-profit organizations could be an option.
- Dr. Crawford suggested setting a time frame when the Commission can meet for 3-5 hours to plan the upcoming events on a weekday or weekend.
 - A doodle will be created and sent out to the Commission members.
 - Tentative MLK Retreat Day-
 - Saturday, January 24th
 - Saturday, January 31st
 - Saturday, February 7th
 - Location- Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake
 - 120 West 1300 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84115

• Action Items

- Send bio and photo to Satty.
- Send MLK events to Satty.
- Respond to Satty's request for the best day for the retreat.
- The next MLK Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held on February 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the Rio Grande Board Room.